

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



جميع حقوق الطبع محفوظة



No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by information storage and retrieval system, without the permission of the publisher.

First Edition: June 2002

Supervised by:

**ABDUL MALIK MUJAHID**

**Headquarters:**

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA  
Tel: 00966-1-4033962/4043432  
Fax: 00966-1-4021659  
E-mail: darussalam@naseej.com.sa  
Website: <http://www.dar-us-salam.com>  
Bookshop: Tel: 4614433 Fax: 4644945

**Branches & Agents:**

**K.S.A.**

● Jeddah: Tel & Fax: 00966-2-6807752  
● Al-Khobar: Tel & Fax 00966-3-8692900

**U.A.E.**

● Tel: 00971-6-5511293 Fax: 5511294

**PAKISTAN**

● 50-Lower Mall, Lahore  
Tel: 0092-42-7240024 Fax: 7354072  
● Rahman Market, Ghazni Street  
Urdu Bazar, Lahore  
Tel: 0092-42-7120054 Fax: 7320703

**U.S.A.**

● Houston: P.O. Box: 79194 Tx 77279  
Tel: 001-713-722 0419 Fax: 001-713-722 0431  
E-mail: sales@dar-us-salam.com  
Website: <http://www.dar-us-salam.com>  
New York: 572 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn  
New York-11217  
Tel: 001-718-625 5925

**U.K.**

● London: Darussalam International  
Publications Ltd.  
P.O. Box: 21555, London E10 6XQ  
Tel: 044-7947 306 706  
Fax: 0044-208 925 6996  
● Birmingham: Al-Hidaayah Publishing & Distribution,  
436 Coventry Road, Birmingham B10 OUG  
Tel: 0044-121-753 1889  
Fax: 121-753 2422

**AUSTRALIA**

● Lakemba NSW: ICIS: Ground Floor 165-171, Haldon St.  
Tel: (61-2) 9758 4040 Fax: 9758 4030

**MALAYSIA**

● E&D BOOKS SDN. BHD.  
321 B 3rd Floor,  
Suria Klcc,  
Kuala Lumpur City Center 50088  
Tel: 00603-216 63433 Fax: 459 72032

**SINGAPORE**

● Muslim Converts Association of Singapore  
Singapore-424484  
Tel: 0065-440 6924, 348 8344  
Fax: 440 6724

**SRILANKA**

● Darul Kitab 6, Nirmal Road, Colombo-4  
Tel: 0094-1-589 038 Fax: 0094-74 722433

**KUWAIT**

● Islam Presentation Committee  
Enlightenment Book Shop, P.O. Box: 1613 Safat  
13017 Kuwait  
Tel: 00965-244 7526 Fax: 240 0057

# Why Women are accepting ISLAM

Compiled by  
**Muhammad Haneef Shahid**

Edited by  
**Abdul Ahad (Alig.)**



**DARUSSALAM**

**GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS**

Riyadh, Jeddah, Sharjah, Lahore  
London, Houston, New York

most of his life in the field of Learning and knowledge. He has dedicated his life to impart knowledge, specially of Islam to a wide range of people. I was introduced to him in 1993 and was greatly impressed with his virtues and qualities.

Darussalam is publishing this compilation with the hope that it will provide to the seekers of Truth, the impressions of those women who have find out the Truth in the form of Islam, and are enjoying its blessings.

### **Abdul-Malik Mujahid**

General Manager

## **Contents**

Publisher Note.....	5
Introduction.....	12
1. O Muslim Women.....	18
<i>Allama Iqbal</i>	
2. Why Islam is my only Choice?.....	19
<i>Aisha Cassana Maddoz Nablisi (U.S.A)</i>	
3. From edge of despair to glory in Islam .....	26
<i>Aesha Lorenz Al-Saeed</i>	
4. African Missionary finds Truth in Islam despite unbearable hardships .....	31
<i>An African Missionary</i>	
5. Islam has done me a world of good.....	34
<i>Aisha Ong</i>	
6. Everybody desires world peace, well, there is nothing which will better accomplish that than the festival at the end of the Pilgrimage at Arafat!!! .....	38
<i>A'isha Wentworth-Fitz-William</i>	
7. Why I embraced Islam .....	41
<i>Begum Amina Lakhani (Ohio, U.S.A)</i>	
8. Islam: My own Choice .....	44
<i>American Muslimaa</i>	
9. This is the story of how I became Muslim.....	48
<i>Amirah</i>	
10. American woman's search ends with the Qur'an .....	53
<i>Hanan Abdullateef</i>	
11. Her intellect brought Amnah to Islam through Arabic.....	58
<i>Amnah</i>	
12. Islam religion of tolerance, good behavior, love and mercy.....	62
<i>Ann Rockfeller (A British Physician)</i>	

13. Why I Embraced Islam.....	64
<i>Asyia Abd</i>	
14. Got the guidance from Allah!.....	69
<i>Ayishah Hassan Jacoueline Ruth Pugh</i>	
15. Islam Changed My Life.....	73
<i>Bahria Amanullah</i>	
16. The Choicest find: Islam.....	77
<i>Bar'rah Islam of (TalaseaNew Britain)</i>	
17. I was totally convinced by the Truth of Islam.....	80
<i>Bushra Finch</i>	
18. Our Daughter's Choice: Islam!.....	83
<i>Carol L. Anway</i>	
19. Islam is a blessing to Me.....	87
<i>Chi Mei-fong</i>	
20. Muslim prayers sing nothing but God's Mercy and Greatness!.....	90
<i>Carol L. Anway</i>	
21. Journey to Faith!.....	92
<i>Emily B. Assami</i>	
22. Fatima discovers the true spirit of Islam.....	95
<i>N. Hashim</i>	
23. Why I embraced Islam.....	99
<i>Fatima Heeren (West Germany)</i>	
24. Islam: Our Choice.....	102
<i>Fatima Martin</i>	
25. My Transformation to Islam.....	106
<i>Fitra (Osaka Muslim Union, Osaka, Japan)</i>	
26. Suddenly I felt safer on the street!.....	110
<i>Georgina Noueiri</i>	
27. How farcical could be Media Images.....	112
<i>Md. Karim Ghazi (formerly Gain Chand Ghosh)</i>	
28. I have found Dignity for Women in Islam.....	115
<i>Hina Begum Ghazi, formerly Vinitha Gupta</i>	

29. Islam: Our Choice.....	116
<i>Huda Khattab</i>	
30. I found true freedom in Islam.....	122
<i>Ibnantu Adam</i>	
31. My years in a Mission School.....	126
<i>Ida Yezmin Bachtiar</i>	
32. I was dong things that are normally done by a Muslim!.....	131
<i>Jane Nader</i>	
33. Heart of a Muslim.....	135
<i>D. Jacqueline Cosens</i>	
34. Impressions of Hajj.....	141
<i>M. Janes (U.S.A.)</i>	
35. Conversion to Islam my own Choice!.....	143
<i>Jemima Imran Khan (Pakistani Sportsman's wife)</i>	
36. Faith in Allah is a big advantage!.....	150
<i>Jewellee</i>	
37. In Search of Truth.....	152
<i>Josephine Ivy Janeezko</i>	
38. Religion of New Millennium!.....	160
<i>Dr. Kamala Surrayya</i>	
39. The Hijab.....	168
<i>Katherine Bullock</i>	
40. My story from Christianity to Islam.....	175
<i>Khadija Zafar (Washington, USA)</i>	
41. Khairunisa dedicates herself for Islam in Germany.....	179
<i>Muslehuiddin Ahamad</i>	
42. I was never convinced with the concept of 'Trinity' in Christianity!.....	183
<i>Khalida Hamilton</i>	
43. How did I come to Islam and Why?.....	185
<i>Laure</i>	
44. How I Embraced Islam.....	192
<i>Lee Cooper (U.K.)</i>	

45. Islam led A British couple to the Right Path.....	198
<i>Leila Rajab</i>	
46. The Call to Islam: A revert's Tale.....	204
<i>Maimuna (formerly Joan Dixon)</i>	
47. Islam: My Personal Experience!.....	211
<i>Mardijah Aldrich Tarantino</i>	
48. I have Finally found Peace in Islam.....	213
<i>Maria Esther Roman (former U.S. Model)</i>	
49. Allah opened my heart to the Truth and guided me to seek knowledge!.....	215
<i>Mariam Velasco</i>	
50. My Heart felt Strong especially as I read the Holy Qur'an!.....	220
<i>Mariola Laila Szczesny</i>	
51. Ramadhan: The First Fulfilling Days.....	224
<i>Mariola Laila Szczesny</i>	
52. Convert devotes Time for Dawa.....	226
<i>Jannah Felesmenia</i>	
53. Beauty of Salat brings Canadian lady to Islamic fold...	228
<i>Maryam Fisher</i>	
54. Behind the Islamic veil.....	231
<i>Maryam Wannaenburgh</i>	
55. What led a Hindu woman to Islam.....	234
<i>Mona Panicker</i>	
56. Blessings of Islam!.....	238
<i>Nadia Shaukat Ali (U.S.A.)</i>	
57. Why Islam.....	243
<i>Nishani (previously Indrani)</i>	
58. My Journey from the Darkness of Unbelief to the Light of Islam.....	252
<i>Natassia Kelly</i>	
59. How I chose Islam?.....	255
<i>An American Woman's conversion story</i>	

60. I am a Muslim woman.....	268
<i>Rabi'a K. Jabbar</i>	
61. Proud to be a Muslim woman <i>Hijab</i> a liberator; not an enslaver.....	270
<i>Rosina Samadani</i>	
62. When minds are ventilated by liberty and rationality .	273
<i>Sabiha Khan (formerly Carole Botes, South Africa)</i>	
63. I realized that what I had searched for Was Islam! .....	277
<i>Shahin Gulam</i>	
64. I seemed by some mysterious Agency to be brought to Islam! .....	282
<i>Saida Miller Khalifa</i>	
65. <i>Hajj</i> is the supreme and profound experience, which cements the Brotherhood of Islam! .....	289
<i>Sakeenah Catherine Quicker Al-Beirut</i>	
66. Discovering faith; belief in Monotheism draws Hindu lady to Islam.....	294
<i>Dr Salma K.V Vijayalaxmi</i>	
67. Truth of Islam forced me to embrace Islam!.....	298
<i>Dr. Salama Siddiqui (written by Muhammad Haneef Shahid)</i>	
68. My Experience as a Muslim female in a Western Society .....	308
<i>Samia Itani (Student, University of Western Sydney)</i>	
69. I Found Myself.....	317
<i>Sara BTE Mohammad</i>	
70. It seems that I have always been a Muslim!.....	321
<i>Lady Zeinab (Evelyn) Cobbold</i>	

## O MUSLIM WOMEN<sup>[1]</sup>

"O Muslim Women!

Out of the evening create a dazzling morn  
to the true lovers of God.

Recite the Holy Qur'an

And enthusiastically translate its spirit into action.

Don't you know that the pathos of your recitation

Changed altogether Umar's fate."<sup>[2]</sup>

*Allama Iqbal*

<sup>[1]</sup> *Armughan-e-Hijaz*, by Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal (Persian) page 94.

<sup>[2]</sup> Reference is made to 'Umar bin 'Al-Khatib's conversion to Islam in Dhul-Hijjah, the Sixth Year of Prophethood. For details see *Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtum* (The Sealed Nectar) by Safi-ur-Rahman Al-Mubarakpuri, pages, 109-114.

## Why Islam is my only Choice

The following is the 'Journey to Islam' story of sister Aisha Cassana Maddox Nablisi of U.S.A. It so happened that sister Aisha wrote a letter to S. Arif Mahmood Bokhari regarding an inquiry of the Global Arabic Encyclopaedia. After doing the needful, brother Bokhari handed over the letter of sister Aisha to me with the idea that I may contact her as she had embraced Islam. So, I did not miss the opportunity and wrote a letter to sister Aisha on 8th February, 1999. I also sent her a questionnaire. I am really grateful to sister Aisha who not only answered all the questions but also supplied me the address of sister. Ms. Khadijah Odet, another young former American Christian who came to Islam. She has recently taken her Master's Degree and has spent some time in Amman, Jordan where sister Aisha used to visit her frequently.

Sister Aisha is fortunate that she came to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1977 and attended Shariah College. She also studied Arabic earlier, stopping in Jeddah, where she was hosted by Dr. Fatma Nassief, the sister of Dr. Abdullah Umar Nassief who was the Vice-Chancellor of king Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah. She also visited the family of Muhammad Khalil Enani. His daughter and sister Aisha were exchange students; sister Aisha from the United States to Saudi Arabia and she (daughter of Mr. Enani) to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

After a year in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, sister Aisha was fortunate to have had the privilege of performing the *Hajj*. Then she returned to her family and entered Teachers College, Columbia University.

Sister Aisha is overwhelmed by the beauty and charm of the Arabic language, particularly the language of the Holy Qur'an,



the Word of Allah. So much so she purchased the Global Arabic Encyclopaedia so that she may clear her total Arabic lessons and review her knowledge of reading the Arabic language, she endeavored to formerly study at University in the United States and at the Shariah College in Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

She calls Arabic language as the 'language of faith'. She was able to do after having studied Arabic earlier in the U.S.A. 7 years at University, with privately engaged tutors, enhanced by electronic tapes.

She had previously studied Italian, French and was studying Russian during the early 1970s, when she suddenly had a profound thought. "If you truly believe in the 'Divine Faith', which is Islam. Why are you studying Russian when you should be studying Arabic". She immediately went up to the good Russian teacher and told her, I must withdraw from the class and transfer my required study of a 'foreign language to the Arabic Language.'

Later on she found Mrs. Attyat El Saudi teaching Arabic at a newly founded college, Essex County College, in New York, New Jersey which has since become a University. For the sake of learning Arabic, sister Aisha had to travel 3 times a week, before reporting to a television station where she was simultaneously employed during those years.

Now I feel much pleasure in presenting sister Aisha's thought-provoking and heart-rending 'conversion story' to you, my esteemed readers!

My Dear sibling in Islam

*Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatu.*

Thank you for your kind invitation to include me in your research on *Why Islam is Our Only Choice?*

Please be well advised that I am heartfelt that Muslims there in the holy land are reaching out to communicate with us, the

diaspora in Islam.

Frankly speaking, I am amazed at some of your questions of inquiry. i.e. no man in the western world, would dare ask a western woman of her date of birth!!

On that issue, I double dare any of my 2, ex-husbands to ask that question. It will have to suffice to say, I am over 40.

My formal education, goes slightly beyond the norm, in the normal sense, I earned after high school a bachelor's degree in International Studies with 2 of the 7 years I studied Arabic, as my required foreign language course. I also studied Arabic with privately paid tutors, courses at the Sussex County College in New York, New Jersey while I was a resident of New York where I was born, reared and educated. I have been in the past however, also a member of the United States Navy and availed myself of the opportunity of studying Arabic: Saudi Language Dialect, from the electronic study material available from them, which I own and yet periodically use, in order to maintain some facility with the language. I am a graduate of naval schools, as well as a civilian. I was and remain grateful to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who permitted me to come to the Kingdom and attend Sharia College in 1977, where I also studied Arabic earlier stopping in Jeddah, where I was hosted by Doctor Fatma Nassief, the sister of the much revered Abdullh Nassief who was at the time head of King Abdul Alziz University, Jeddah as well as the family of the Rabitat of Jeddah; Mohammad Kahlil Enani. His daughter and I were exchange students; me from the United States to Saudi Arabia, she, to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. After a year in the kingdom, after I was so fortunate as to have had the privilege of performing the *Hajj*, I returned home, to my family and entered Teachers College, Columbia University, New York where I earned a Master's degree in International Education Development with a minor in the Teaching of English, as a

## From edge of despair to glory in Islam

We feel pleasure in presenting a heart-rending and soul provoking conversion to Islam story of Sister Aesha Lorenz Al-Saeed with the hope that 'Seeker of Truth' may benefit from it and adopt the 'Right Path'. *In Sha Allah!*

During her study in an Episcopal private school, she studied world religions. 'Trinity' was a point of contention for her like many others, because it was not logical and did not appeal to reason. She met some Muslim from Middle East in her High School days. Someone suggested her to read about Islam. Her grandfather too encouraged her by saying that Islam contained a 'good moral code of living.'

"The more she read, the more she found answers to all her questions, with the result her discoveries enlightened her. We are quite sure that Allah guided her to the 'Right Path' and she was enlightened by the Truth of Islamic teachings by her study and without any compulsion. In the Holy Qur'an Allah declares:

'There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path' has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in *Taghut* and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All knower.'

Allah is the *Wali* (Protector or Guardian) of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their '*Auliya* (supporters and helpers) are *Taghut* (false deities and false leaders,) they bring them out from light into darkness. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will abide therein

forever."<sup>[1]</sup>

Islam was clear, logical with explanation and guidance for every aspect of worship and human relations. It is to be noted that at the age of 17, she began to pray regularly and fast. She was indeed a Muslim by heart and through study, she believed in Allah works on His own timetable and everything has a plan if it is good for us. She declared *Shahadah*. Later on she married a Saudi Gentleman. She is content and satisfied and greatly thankful to Allah because all her wishes have been fulfilled — Editor.<sup>[2]</sup>

One day when I was six years old, my parents gave me a shiny quarter, as they did every Sunday morning and told me to put it in the collection plate for church "to give it to Jesus for his work."

When I returned, however, the quarter was still in my purse. I was frank in explaining that I hadn't given my money for Jesus because he was absent.

My parents were more amused than concerned, probably thinking that my genes would prevail, having descended from a family with three Christian ministers as my grandparents.

I attended an Episcopal Private School where we studied world religions during my last year of elementary school. I was intrigued with my father's Swedenborgian faith for a time, as it injected an element of mysticism into his essays on faith, however, the trinity was a point of contention for me as I felt it wasn't logical. How could one father (The Great Spirit), plus

<sup>[1]</sup> *Interpretation of the Meanings of 'The Noble Qur'an* by Dr. Muhammad Taqi Uddin Al-Hilali and Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan. Riyadh, Maktaba Darussalam, 1993. (*Surat al-Baqarah*, 2:256-257, pages 66-67)

<sup>[2]</sup> *Saudi Gazette*, Friday, 13th April, 2001, page 9.